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Creator: Ameinu Detroit
Title: Ameinu Detroit records.
Inclusive dates: 1928-2009
Extent: 8.5 linear feet and 1 oversize folder.
Call number: 2009128 Bd 2; UBDm

Language: Material is in English and Yiddish.
Acquisition: The records were received from the organization (donor no. 10229) in July 2009.
Accruals: Periodic additions to the records are expected.
Access: The record group is open without restriction.
Photographs: Photographs in box 5 and oversize folder
Visual Materials: Videotapes in box 9
Sound Recordings: Sound cassettes in box 9
Copyright: Copyright is held by the Regents of the University of Michigan.
Processed By: Thomas E. Powers, August 2009

Abstract

Southeastern Michigan branch of the Labor Zionist Organization of American, now renamed Ameinu Detroit; organizational files include minutes of the Detroit Council, topical files, administrative correspondence, financial records, some local branch materials, publications, and visual and audio materials.

History

The Detroit branch of the Labor Zionist Organization of American (Poale Zion) was established in 1906. The underlying purpose of the organization, according to one writer, was “the inner urge for a spiritual reconstruction” that would bring about the transformation of young people “estranged from the soil and manual labor through centuries of Diaspora life, into enthusiastic workers and farmers in the land of Israel.”

Prior to World War II, the Labor Zionist Organization (Poale Zion) developed a fraternal order (the Farband), the Pioneer Women’s Organization, the League for Labor Palestine and the Histadrut Campaign. And through a network of Jewish Folk Schools, summer camps, and Habonim (now Habonim Dror), a progressive Zionist youth organization (founded in 1935), the children of members and friends became acquainted with the goals and ideals of labor Zionism.

According to its articles of incorporation dated 1943, the Detroit Labor Zionist Institute was created to raise and collect money “for the purpose of establishment and maintenance of a center for the cultivation, promotion and advancement of Hebrew and Yiddish culture, literature and art; to conduct schools and classes for instruction in Hebrew and Yiddish religion, education, literature and drama; and to otherwise promote, cultivate and advance the social, cultural, recreational and educational welfare of Jews in the metropolitan area of Detroit.”

In 1947 Detroit became one of the first branches of the Labor Zionist Organization to establish a Central Committee, the purpose of which was (1) to execute the directives and carry out the programs of the national organization and (2) to bring together for concerted action (particularly fund raising) the divisions of the Zionist Labor Movement. These divisions included the Habonim Youth Movement, the Detroit Farband City Committee, the Detroit Council of Pioneer Women and all of the city’s local branches of the Labor Zionist Organization.

In its history, the organization has undergone several name changes following mergers and restructurings and in an effort to attract new members. In 1971, the Labor Zionist Organization (Poale Zion) joined with Farband and the American Habonim Association to form the Labor Zionist Alliance; and in 2004, LZA became Ameinu.

Scope and Content Note

The record group includes documentation of both the Labor Zionist Organization and the Labor Zionist Institute. Some of the records date back to the early 1930s with the bulk of files dating from 1970. Included are minutes, topical files, correspondence, financial records, individual branch records, publications, and miscellaneous photographs, videotapes, and sound recordings. The record group documents the social and cultural programs and activities of one segment of Southeastern Michigan's Jewish community. Documented is the organization's fund raising activities, its interaction with other area groups, and its position on national and international issues.

Box No. Description

Minutes and related material

Minute books, 1933-1947 (3 volumes) (in Yiddish)

Labor Zionist Alliance Council (earlier records are of the Labor Zionist Organization of American and of the Poale Zion Council; later records are of Ameinu Detroit; also includes some scattered minutes of the Executive Committee)

Box 1

1951-1959
1971-1994 (21 folders)

Box 2

1995-1998 (2 folders)
2003-2009 (9 folders)
Labor Zionist Institute
1955-1957
1970-2004 (16 folders)

Topical file**Box 3**

Aaronson, Shlomo, 1984
Addison (Rabbi Howard A.) / Jeffry Mallow lectures, 1985
Administrative Committee, 1991
Afro-Asian Institute of Histadrut in Israel – fund-raising lists, 1991
Announcements of upcoming programs (1 expandable folder)
APRI / LZA Coalition
Blumenberg, Alex (president of Detroit LZA Council), 1981-1982
Cemetery plot list
Chavar (information for stories and related), 1992-1993
Condolence and get well messages, 1977-1987
Constitution, by-laws, and articles of incorporation of Detroit Central Committee and of the Labor Zionist Institute (2 folders)
Detroit Yiddish Theatre (proposed), 1975
Detroit Zionist Federation, 1978-1986
Dinitz, Simcha (lecture), 1982
Endowment, 1986-1989
Eyal, Eli (lecture), 1982
Friends of Labor Israel
Habonim Camp Tavor and related
Hagadda-Yom Ha'atzmaut
Histadrut (Israel Histadrut of Metropolitan Detroit)
Itonenu (newsletter of the Detroit Council), 1980s-2008 (5 folders)
(include mark-up galleys of issues, background information, copies of the newsletter, and newsletters of related organizations)

Box 4

Jewish Community Council (mainly newsletters and announcements of programs), 1983-1987 (4 folders)
Jewish Film Festival, 1982-1985 (5 folders) (include announcements, financial reports, correspondence, and related material)

Box No. Description

Topical file (cont.)**Box 4 (cont.)**

Labor Zionism miscellaneous
 Membership dues and forms, 1981-1990s (4 folders)
 Michigan Trade Union Council for Histadrut (Dick Cordtz dinner),
 1987
 Mid-West Camp Habonim, ca. 1961-ca. 1980 (1 expandable folder)
 Midwest Ideological Seminar, 1989
 Midwest Regional Seminar
 1984
 1985
 1987
 1988 (include newsletters)

Box 5

Miscellaneous (2 folders)
 National Office (correspondence and other materials), ca. 1984-1996 (3
 folders)
 Photographs
 Pollard, Jonathan (Michigan Committee for Freedom for Jonathan
 Pollard), 1991
 Program Committee, 1988
 Property: Schaefer Highway; Arlington Park; and Middlebelt Road
 Scholar in residence (Shlomo Gazit), 1999-2000
 Scholarships and awards
 Shrodeck, Issy (political action committee), 1982-1984
 Special Fund Campaign, 1982-1989 (6 folders)
 Spicehandler, Ezra
 Tributes and memorials
 Naimark, Helen and Norman
 Noveck, Evelyn
 United Jewish Folk Schools (include photographs)
 Vigil activities, 2002

Correspondence**Box 6**

1982-1997 and 2003-2009 (17 folders)

Financial records**Box 7**

Labor Zionist Assembly: Financial statements and related, 1978-1996
 (some gaps) (8 folders)
 Labor Zionist Institute
 Financial statements and related, 1986-1993
 Internal Revenue forms and related
 Real estate material

Box No. Description

Branches**Box 8**

Branch 6: Announcements of programs
 Branch 7: Minutes, 1974-1984
 Branch 11: Announcements of programs 1998-2008
 Branch 137 (Arlazaroff Branch)
 Yearbooks and directories, anniversary booklets, 1944-1978
 Announcement of program cards (2 folders)
 Branch 593 (Brenner-Truman Branch): program, announcements,
 1982-1989 (3 folders)
 Combined branch materials, 1991-1992

Publications

Anniversary history: "50 years of Labor Zionism in Detroit, 1906-1956"
 Labor Zionist Organization of America: Yearbooks, 1947/1948, 1948/1949, anniversary celebration program, 1981
 Habonim Dror yearbooks, 1968-2009 (some gaps)
 United Jewish Folk Schools graduation books, 1950s-1960s
 Other organizations programs: Hashomer Hatzair, 1962; Pinsker Progressive Aid Society, 1977; Pioneer Women/Na'amat, 1982
 National materials: convention programs

Miscellaneous**Box 9**

Partial autobiography of I.A. Liebson entitled "Not So Long Ago; Memories of My Life" (Liebson was active in the Detroit LZO)
 Scrapbook containing clippings regarding activities, 1974-1980
 Videotapes (VHS)
 Tavor Video: Joey Nussbaum, 1994
 Beit Lessin
 Sound cassettes
 Mayor Coleman Young Dinner, June 17, 1982
 Afro-Asian Institute: Yehudah Paz – Voice and Pulses
 Histadrut Dinner: Leon Cohan Tribute, April 2, 1987
 Histadrut function, October 1977
 Rev. Jim Lyons: Remarks on a two week trip to Germany, Jan. 25, 1988
 Leon Cowan function, Nov. 18, 1987

Photographs**Out. Folder**

Panoramic banquet photograph of Arlazaroff Branch 137 – J.N.W.A. Dinner Dance at the Detroit Leland Hotel, November 24, 1934
 Panoramic banquet photograph of the Jewish National Workers Alliance, Eleventh Convention, Detroit, Michigan, May 1, 1928